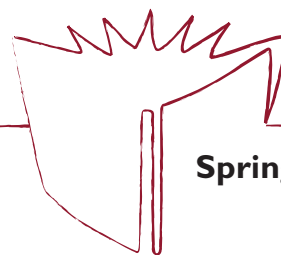


# News & Kudos

## FACULTY OF FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2009

### Message from the Dean



Photo: PBL Photography

Last summer, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal received international attention for its inaugural "Quebec Triennial: Nothing is Lost, Nothing is Created, Everything is Transformed!" Quebec Triennial was one of the most ambitious exhibitions of contemporary Quebec art and one of the largest in the museum's history.

Concordia Fine Arts graduates comprised nearly half of the 38 artists selected for the exhibition.

This recognition, along with a string of noteworthy accolades for our faculty members, students and alumni, reaffirms the extent to which the Faculty of Fine Arts anchors and enriches the Quebec and Canadian contemporary art scene. Here are some other examples:

Chris Salter, a faculty member in Design and Computation Arts, was one of two architects/designers from Canada who was selected to participate in the 11th Annual Architecture Exhibition of the 2008 Venice Biennale.

Cinema Professor Guylaine Dionne attracted major funding for her new film, *Serveuses demandées* (*Waitresses Wanted*), which opened in cinemas in January 2009 to critical acclaim.

At the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival, our students and faculty members dominated "Canada's Top Ten," the annual list honouring excellence in contemporary Canadian cinema.

Last summer, the McCord Museum of Canadian History in Montreal displayed its acclaimed, four month-long, outdoor exhibition, "Inspirations." The exhibition featured works by our Photography students alongside photos from the Notman Photographic Archives. And former Contemporary Dance student Andrew Turner is presenting his groundbreaking work this spring in France for "Les Repérages," a showcase for young choreographers.

We are extremely proud of the Faculty's role as a leader in the study and research of contemporary art practice. Without question, our leadership in Contemporary Art (as Knowledge) is at the top of the list of the Faculty's curriculum and research strengths.

We have defined this, along with five other strengths, as signature areas for the Faculty: Digital and Interactive Media, History and Documentary, Intercultural and Community Engagement, Interdisciplinary Studies and Practices, and Sustainability.

In the following pages, you will find many examples from these areas of excellence.



*Factory for a day*, Tricia Middleton (MFA 05)  
MACM Quebec Triennial

Rather than articulating our strengths by specific program or department, we recognize an overriding set of attributes that are identified with Concordia Fine Arts and that are appealing to our next generation of students and faculty members. We are enjoying the largest faculty renewal in a decade and our student enrolment is at or near capacity, thereby confirming that our contributions to research creation and teaching resonate strongly with students and the community.

Concordia is undergoing a rigorous strategic planning process and the Faculty of Fine Arts is an active participant. Our goal is to continue to enrich our university and the cultural community by strengthening and improving our position as a fine arts leader.

Catherine Wild  
Dean, Fine Arts

## Faculty Research and News

Half of four Concordia University 2008 Research Fellowships were awarded to Fine Arts faculty members **Raymonde April** (Studio Arts) and **Erin Manning** (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and Studio Arts) in the established and emerging categories, respectively. Also in 2008, **Erin Manning**, **Martha Langford** (Art History) and **Thomas Waugh** (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema) were named Concordia University Research Chairs.

Louise Dandurand, Concordia's Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies, has awarded **Lynn Hughes** (Studio Arts) and **Bart Simon** (Faculty of Arts and Science) significant seed funding for collaborative interdisciplinary research in Technoculture, Art and Games, a field in which the university is becoming a major player in Canada.

The Faculty's two Canada Research Chairs launched their state-of-the-art labs in February and March 2009. **Sandeep Bhagwati**, CRC in Inter-X Art Practice and Theory, and **Sha Xin Wei**, CRC in New Media Arts, held numerous events to showcase their multi-media, interactive and interdisciplinary approach to exploring artistic and philosophical practices and theory.

In October 2008, the Faculty joined forces with international scholars, researchers and partners in the textile industry to present an innovation-focused colloquium at the 21<sup>st</sup> Entretiens Jacques-Cartier. **Joanna Berzowska** (Design and Computation Arts) and **Barbara Layne** (Studio Arts) delivered a joint presentation about electronic textiles and emerging research in the arts.

The Faculty's new Canadian Women Artists History Initiative, launched in October 2008 by **Kristina Huneault** (Art History), Fine Arts Visual Resources Curator **Janice Anderson** and Fine Arts Reference Librarian **Melinda Reinhart**, establishes Canada's first, centralized, publicly accessible, online database of Canadian women artists for the period before 1967.

The Faculty has been actively involved in the City of Montreal's year-long homage to Norman Bethune through intercultural exhibitions and symposia by professors **Catherine MacKenzie** (Art History) and **Alice Ming Wai Jim** (Art History).

The Faculty strengthened its ties with the local Chinese community by presenting courses and performances that stemmed from an academic exchange with the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in Beijing, China. In May 2009, **Robert Reid** (Theatre) and his students will travel to Beijing to study and teach.



Barbara Layne's "Jacket Antics"

## Faculty Awards and Kudos

Photo: Allison Cordner



Professor **Christopher Jackson** (Music) won a 2008 Opus Award for Concert of the Year (early music category) for his work with the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal.

**François Morelli's** (Studio Arts) solo exhibition, "Survolt inédit" at the Joyce Yahouda Gallery in Montreal, was included in *Le Devoir's* "Les 10 meilleurs moments en arts visuels en 2008."

**Christopher Jackson**

**David Pariser** (Art Education)

was recognized for his significant contributions to Canadian art education over the past 30 years at a national art education conference in November 2008 that was hosted by Concordia.

**Sandeep Bhagwati**, Canada Research Chair in Inter-X Art Practice and Theory, had the world premiere in November 2008 of his new improvisations-cycle, "Racines Éphémères" (64 variations on a melody by Quebec composer Claude Vivier), at the Festival Wien Modern in Klosterneuburg, Austria.

**Raymonde April** (Studio Arts) was a finalist in the Art Gallery of Ontario's inaugural Grange Prize 2008 for contemporary photography.

**homelessnation.org**, a website for the homeless created in 2003 by **Dan Cross** (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema), won two awards for excellence in 2008.

Professors **Martha Langford** (Art History) and **Sandra Paikowsky** (Art History) are the editors of a new McGill-Queen's University Press literary series called the "Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation Studies in Art History." The series focuses on the study of Canadian art and Canada's visual and material culture.

Professor **Catherine Russell** (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema) is the new co-editor (along with Concordia Research Chair Charles Acland) of the pre-eminent *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*, now housed at the university.

**Mario Falsetto** (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema) has published *The Making of Alternative Cinema* as part of a two-volume hardcover set in the prestigious Praeger Perspectives Series. The book was released in paperback as *Dialogues with Independent Filmmakers* (Praeger Publishers, 2008). The book includes interviews with directors such as Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*), Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*), Neil LaBute (*Nurse Betty*), Julie Taymor (*Frida*), Gus van Sant (*My Own Private Idaho*) and Alexander Payne (*Sideways*).



## Connecting with Communities

In the Faculty of Fine Arts, there are many examples of students and faculty members who reach out to the local community:

Theatre students plied their acting skills to support a Montreal Museum of Fine Arts fundraiser in 2008. Ceramics students make bowls that are filled with soup and sold for the Empty Bowls project, an annual fundraiser to fight world hunger. Creative arts therapies students provide bully-proofing workshops to children at local elementary schools. In December 2008, Jazz Studies students and faculty members performed at Grumpy's Bar in Montreal to help raise money for the Gazette Christmas Fund.

Students Esther Kabala and Karen Haffey won a 2008 Forces Avenir Award for outstanding community service for their project called "Collecting Loss: Weaving Threads of Memory." They gathered clothing and compiled stories from people who had lost loved ones. The result was a touching exhibition of loss and bereavement.

These types of generous and creative community outreach initiatives are an integral part of our students' experiences.



Theatre students play the role of paparazzi at a 2008 fundraiser for the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

## Leaving a Musical Legacy



Gregory John Barker

In February 2008, Concordia music student Gregory John Barker was tragically killed in a car accident. The Faculty posthumously awarded Gregory his degree, With Distinction, at its June 2008 Convocation.

Creative and passionate, Gregory had a gift for bringing life and light to everyone he befriended. From the age of 16, when he began playing the piano for elderly patients at a local hospital, Gregory showed a keen interest in and commitment to helping others.

His parents, Charlie and Eithne Barker, are carrying on where Gregory left off by continuing to bring music to the elderly at Montreal- and Ottawa-area seniors' residences.

"It is in making music that we keep Gregory's spirit and passion alive and in the process create something tangible and far-reaching out of our loss. Our efforts remind us of Gregory's outreach and commitment to seniors — whose lives are validated and celebrated through the power, beauty and magic of music." — Charles and Eithne Barker

Charlie and Eithne have established the Gregory John Barker Endowment in memory of Gregory's commitment, spirit, dedication and passion toward community and music. The endowment is aimed at encouraging and recognizing Department of Music students who are active in the community.

Many people have already contributed to the new endowment and several seniors' homes are also providing funding after every performance.

For more information, contact Kelly Mackay, Development Officer, Faculty of Fine Arts, at 514-848-2424, ext. 5053, or at [kmackay@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:kmackay@alcor.concordia.ca).

## FOFA Gallery

The FOFA Gallery is now in its third year of operation as a showcase for the works of Fine Arts alumni, students and faculty members. 2009 highlights include:



March 23–April 17

### **Ceramics: Raw/Medium Rare/Well Done**

*A celebration of Concordia's ceramics program—past and present*

April 27–May 22

### **Undergraduate Student Exhibition**

*A Faculty of Fine Arts tradition for more than 25 years*

May 25–30

### **The Montréal Jazz Scene**

*Concordia Archives materials, in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Art Deco*

June 8–26

### **7th Annual Graduating Students' Show Exhibition**

*A juried show coinciding with Convocation*

July 13–August 14

### **Solitary Crowding**

*Momoko Allard's photographic series of nightly Tokyo train rides*

October 12–November 6

### **Grey Nuns Commission**

*Photographic works by 12 artists that express the possibilities of the Grey Nuns Mother House as a site for fine arts research and creation, curated by Martha Langford*

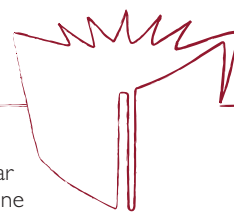
### **The Long Wait: Canada's NATO force in Germany**

*Michael Love's documentary-style photographs of decommissioned bases*

November 9–December 11

### **Dimensions of Light**

*Lenka Novakova's exploration of the dualities of the universe*



## Alumni News and Kudos

Congratulations to former FOFA Gallery director **Lynn Beavis**, MFA 03, who was appointed in March 2009 as director of the Richmond Art Gallery in Richmond, B.C. During her three-year tenure at the FOFA Gallery, Lynn was instrumental in building the new space and developing the gallery's reputation for innovative programming. We welcome artist **Jake Moore**, MFA 06, as interim director until the next director is named.

**Nicolas Basque**, BFA 01, **Warren C. Spicer**, BFA 02, and **Matthew Woodley**, BFA 01, of the Montreal trio Plants and Animals, received two nominations for the 2009 Juno Awards in both Alternative Album of the Year and New Group of the Year categories.

**Tricia Middleton**, MFA 05, whose installation *Factory for a Day* was acquired by the Musée d'art Contemporain after last year's triennial, will have a solo exhibition of her work on display at the museum as of October 10, 2009.



Marianna Milhorat's *This is Not an Anchor, This Boat is Not an Anchor*

*Ce qu'il faut pour vivre (The Necessities of Life)*, directed by **Benoit Pilon**, BFA 87, was Canada's entry in the Best Foreign Film category for the 2008 Academy Awards. Although not selected for the final Oscar short-list, the film recently earned eight 2009 Genie Awards nominations and continues to receive international acclaim.

Kudos to **Michael Zavacky**, BFA 84, who was selected to design Canada Post's 2008 Celebration stamp, which features fireworks bursting over a summer sky. Michael art directs the Ottawa-based McMillan Digital Art, a company that has been Microsoft's chief supplier of digital images for more than a decade.

**Rawi Hage**, BFA 98, was short-listed for three major literary prizes for his second novel *Cockroach*: the Governor-General's Literary Award for excellence in English-language fiction, Scotiabank Giller Prize and Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

Web activist and filmmaker **Brett Gaylor**, BFA 01, received the Focus-Cinémathèque Québécoise Jury's Special Mention for his 2008 film, *RIP: Remix Manifesto*, an engrossing exploration of the issue of copyright in the information age. The film also won the Dioraphte Audience Award (worth € 5,000, or about CDN\$8,000) in November 2008 at the prestigious 21st International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam, Holland.

**J.R. Carpenter**, BFA 95, is president of Oboro Gallery and a two-time winner of the CBC Quebec Short Story Competition. J.R.'s 2007 web-based, literary/art project, "Entre Ville," was commissioned for the 50th anniversary of the Conseil des arts de Montréal and launched at the Museum of Fine Arts. Her latest novel, *Words the Dog Knows*, has just been published by Conundrum Press.

**Randall Cole**, BFA 92, wrote and directed five short films while studying at Concordia and continued filmmaking in the ensuing years. In November 2008, Randall's latest movie, *Real Time*, starring Randy Quaid and Jay Baruchel, opened to strong reviews in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

In the fifth incarnation of its *Hothouse* series, the NFB brought together six, promising new talents from across Canada to spend three months working intensively on their first professional film. Fine Arts alumni **Jim Verburg**, BFA 08, and **Neely Goniodysky**, BFA 08, as well as current student **Sara Guindon**, were among the artists on this year's roster.

**Christine Jones**, BFA 89, will be honored by the Faculty of Fine Arts when she receives an Award of Distinction in April 2009. She was nominated for a 2007 Tony Award (Best Scenic Design of a Musical) for the Broadway hit play *Spring Awakening*. The play opened this year in London's West End to critical acclaim.

At the 2008 Festival du nouveau cinema, **Adrian Wills**, BFA 00, picked up the Radio-Canada People's Choice Award for his documentary film, *All Together Now*, a glimpse into the extraordinary partnership between the Beatles and Cirque du Soleil.

**Yung Chang**, BFA 99, is one of four filmmakers (including Sarah Polley) chosen to participate in the inaugural CFC/NFB Feature Documentary Program. Chang's documentary film, *Up the Yangtze*, won many international film festival awards. Dan Cross (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema) served as the film's associate producer.

**Marianna Milhorat**, BFA 07, was awarded the prestigious Technicolor Cinematic Vision Award in April 2008 for her short film *This is Not an Anchor, This Boat is Not an Anchor* at the 21st Images Festival in Ontario.



Jim Verburg's *Family Album #1*



## News & Kudos

Produced by Concordia University's  
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Dean – Catherine Wild  
Communications Advisor/Editor – Ann Tanner-McDonald  
Alumni Officer/Contributor – Linda Rice

Please send your comments or ideas to  
[ann.tanner-mcdonald@concordia.ca](mailto:ann.tanner-mcdonald@concordia.ca)  
[finearts.concordia.ca](http://finearts.concordia.ca)

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